

# OPC BULLETIN



HOTEL BILTMORE • 55 EAST 43RD STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017 • (212) 687-2430 • VOLUME 33, NO. 13, AUGUST 1, 1978

## Carter sends thanks For Jazz Club Award

The club received a letter of thanks from President and Mrs. Carter July 10 for the "In Recognition" citation presented on behalf of the OPC by Wilma Dobie, chairman of the Overseas Jazz Club, at the White House June 18. The occasion was the June 18 jazz bash on the White House lawn, which Wilma attended by invitation, as reported in the July 1 *Bulletin*.

Signed by Mrs. Carter, the letter read as follows:

"Dear Wilma:

Jimmy and I want to thank you for the certificate from the Overseas Jazz Club. We are pleased to accept it. Please express our appreciation to all those responsible."

With our best wishes."

The Jazz Club's citation is given to artists performing at the OPC and reads: "From the Overseas Jazz Club for creative and outstanding contributions to the international world of jazz". Wilma says her next ambition is to get President and Mrs. Carter to attend one of the club's own functions.

## Highlights of first Meeting of new Board

Gellermann's new broom sweeps clean, reservations for the May 1979 Awards banquet are now being accepted, a vote to return to basics, and membership statistics were highlights of the first official meeting of the 1978-79 Board of Governors.

Presiding for the first time, President Henry Gellermann noted that the Loew's Corporation would officially become our new landlord on July 15, 1978 and that the club's management had already initiated contact with them.

Setting his sights nine months away, the President asked Awards Committee Chairman Bob Sheridan to report on his plans for next May's annual get-together. Sheridan said it is his committee's plan to get started now, form a committee of distinguished honorary members from the ranks of New York media executives and ask a distinguished newsperson to head the panel as honorary chairperson.

Referring to the recent Soviet action of bringing libel charges against two newsmen (see separate story), Gellermann asked Press Relations Chairman Charles Schreiber and Board Member Russ Tornabene to comment on working newspeople's reaction to OPC involvement in such issues. In separate statements, both reported that most newspeople view the OPC as a "social" organization rather than a club with specific professional goals and principles. Gellermann commented that it would be a goal of his administration to return the club to the traditions and principles on which it was founded — "We are a professional organization first and foremost," he declared.

Membership Chairman Harry Rand announced that the Club currently has 1,470 members, 820 of whom are active. He said that this number was down from 1,601 members as reported a year ago. Considerable discussion ensued regarding ways to increase membership.

### REMINDER

Enrollment in Blue Cross is open to new members during July and August. Call office — 687-2430 — for application forms.

## 'NO NEWS ALL THE TIME...' or, 4 weeks away from it all in Russia this summer

(Editor's Note: George Bookman, associate member of the OPC Board of Governors, wrote the following exclusive eyewitness report for the Bulletin's readers.)

Never, since I bought my first trench-coat 40 years ago, have I been so starved for news as I was earlier this summer on a four-week sightseeing trip to the Soviet Union. My month-long starvation diet served as a reminder of how well-fed we are in the United States with media information.

My wife and I managed to learn some tourist Russian (with the help of pocket phrase books), but not adequate for reading the Russian press, or understanding Soviet radio or TV, which might at least have given us a Kremlin's-eye view of world news.

Our itinerary first took us to Leningrad and Moscow; then after three days and two nights on the Trans-Siberian Railway, to Novosibirsk, the capital of Siberia. From there we flew to Tashkent and other cities in Uzbekistan in Soviet Central Asia; then on to Tbilisi and Batumi in the Republic of Georgia and finally back to Moscow and Warsaw, Amsterdam and home to New York.

The first symptoms of news hunger set in when we were in Leningrad. A tantalizing few copies of the International Herald-Tribune and a few London papers were available at the newsstand of the Leningrad Hotel, I was told, but they were always gone by the time I appeared to make a purchase.

One day, after I hadn't seen a "western" paper for about five days, I spotted a three-day old copy of *The Washington Post*, which some recently-arrived traveller had left lying on a chair. As I settled down in the lobby to read every word, several other news-starved tourists, including three Americans and one English-speaking Dutchman, watched me enviously and hovered in the background, ready to grab the paper as soon as I had done with it.

By the time we reached Moscow, I was hungrily stalking the newsstands, snatching up newspapers in any language that I could read. Soviet newsstands often carry an array of Communist newspapers from Western countries, and wherever I went in the USSR, from Moscow on, I bought copies of either *L'Humanite* from Paris, or the Communist papers from East Germany, Italy, or London. Several times I also happened upon copies of the New York-based Communist newspaper, the

*Daily World*, successor to the *Daily Worker*.

Some of the most readable material available in English or other Western languages in the USSR were undated feature articles in a weekly magazine called "Moscow News" that the Soviets published in several languages and distribute to all tourist offices. While I was in the Soviet Union, the main news pages of this handout were filled with articles about the success of Comrade Brezhnev's visits to West Germany and Czechoslovakia, but the back pages contained interesting features lifted from American publications and news services. Thanks to these features, I was able to keep posted on such news as the latest doings of "Big Foot", sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects in the American southwest, and new theories concerning the lost continent of Atlantis.

One time in Uzbekistan, we had a fleeting brush with news when a reporter for Radio Tashkent sought us out to interview us on our impressions of his country, for use in an English-language short-wave broadcast. After the interview, we talked briefly about "detente," disarmament and President Carter's speech to a NATO meeting in Washington. It was an interesting discussion, but I felt considerably handicapped because the Soviet reporter had the latest news, at least as supplied by Tass, and I had no independent source of information.

Coming home we flew via Aeroflot, the Soviet airline, to Amsterdam with a brief stop in Warsaw. Passengers were literally locked in the transit lounge and not allowed to visit any shops in the airport concourse. The pangs of news-hunger by this time were very keen, and I remember trying to induce an airport official to act as my agent and buy me a newspaper — without avail. But it was only three more hours to Amsterdam's Schipol airport, where I had a veritable feast of newspapers and magazines from New York, London, Paris — every capital in the Western world! Home bound across the Atlantic I didn't sleep a wink, so busy was I gorging myself on real news for the first time in a month. As they say, it's good to be back.

## OPC condemns Soviet 'Trial' of U.S. Press

In a strongly worded telegram to Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin, OPC President Henry Gellermann condemned Russia's arraignment of foreign correspondents Craig R. Whitney of the *New York Times* and Harold D. Piper of the *Baltimore Sun* on charges of "libeling Soviet state television." The two reporters had written that an imprisoned dissident's televised "confession" appeared in the eyes of friends and relatives, to have been fabricated. (Both journalists have since been tried in absentia and ordered to publish retractions.)

Russia is yelling "libel," and Gellermann retorts "unwarranted interference."

In a separate telegram to Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, President Gellermann stated that the OPC has pledged its full support to any effort by the State Department on behalf of the two newsmen. According to Gellermann the Soviet action is in "continued violation of the Human Rights Act as agreed at the Helsinki Conference."

First news of the Soviet Government's plan to take legal action was heard on the evening news of June 28. Gellermann called Freedom of the Press Committee member J. Robert Moskin of *Atlas Magazine*, and the two conferred on a plan of action. It was decided that the OPC would lodge a formal protest by telegram.

Gellermann and Moskin agreed on drafts which were read to *New York Times* Executive Editor A.M. Rosenthal and *Baltimore Sun* Managing Editor Paul Bunker. Texts were approved, and Rosenthal added his personal thanks for the Club's professional interest. He asked us to hold up sending the telegrams because the State Department "was trying to do something." After 24 hours elapsed and with no further word the telegrams were sent.

The action signified the first immediate and coordinated action of the Freedom of the Press Committee in recent years. President Gellermann stated that, "if we are to preserve press freedom, we must be at the ready and able to move swiftly and effectively to curb any efforts that might jeopardize this cherished freedom."

## Brandis is Bulletin Ad Head, Publisher for Dateline 1979

Fulfilling one more campaign promise, Henry Gellermann, president of the Club, announced the appointment of Werner N. Brandis as advertising manager of the *OPC Bulletin* and publisher of the 1979 edition of *Dateline*, the Club's annual magazine. A member of the OPC since 1965, Brandis was a reporter and foreign correspondent before he became an advertising and public relations man; his most recent affiliation was as New York Advertising Manager of *Aufbau*, the leading German newspaper.

## FROM THE CLUBS

TOKYO — Bruce Dunning, CBS News, was elected president of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan for the year starting July 1.

He succeeds Ted Marks, UPI, who did not seek a second term.

Other new officers: Swedesh R. DeRoy, Press Trust of India, first vice president; David Tharp, *The Australian*, second vice president; Hans Pringseim, *The Evening News* of London, secretary; Lee Chia, Central News Agency (Taiwan), treasurer; and directors Ted Shimizu, UPI; Jack Russell, NBC News; Jean Pearce, free lance, and Klaus W. Bender, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.

Although the Foreign Correspondents Club traditionally opposes reciprocal relations, the club grants

WASHINGTON — The TV networks lost the battle with U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Thomas (Tip) O'Neill (D-Mass.), over televising the House floor action.

The House voted 235-150 to have House employees operate the cameras. The cameramen had experimented on coverage for a month prior to the House vote.

And on June 12, the House started audio for all media wishing to use any portion of the floor action.

Rep. Lester L. Wolff (D-N.Y.) led a group of seven members of Congress on a 10-day trip to China to get Chinese views on establishing normal relations with the U.S. and a wide range of other issues.

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### NEW MEMBERS

#### Active Non-Resident

Naomi Koshkin

#### Active Resident

Alvin A. Dann  
David L. Green

#### Affiliate

Richard Torrenzano



## LETTERS

Adam had his apple, Ed Koch has his Big Apple, and *Dateline '78*, the finest, most attractive OPC publication to date is tempting me to take a bite. When you see your copy of *Dateline '78*, you'll know how tempting it was to take credit as publisher.

The fact is all the credit for copy and layout belongs to Terry Catchpole, editor, and *Playboy*. Catchpole did a magnificent job. He is a professional in every sense of the word.

Our own Bob Sheridan, of AP Dow Jones, was responsible for the OPC supplied copy and "catching," and therefore has earned the right to take the blame for any errors.

Art Milton, associate publisher provided knowledge and counsel obtained from his 18 years as *Dateline* publisher, and Len Silverman, advertising director, spent many an hour selling ads in order to produce some revenue for the OPC.

To all of the above, and to Mary Novick and the OPC staff, my sincere thanks and admiration for your efforts. You made *Dateline '78* what it is — SUPERB!!

—Louis Calderoni

Yes, we're open as usual. Although other clubs curtail or close in the summer, OPC is keeping regular hours, including full weekday luncheon service noon to 2 p.m. and bar service noon to 8 p.m. So come — and bring your guests. In addition, the club's regular calendar of events will resume in September.

## Tokyo

(Continued from page 1)

guest membership cards to bona fide visiting news persons.

The club serves lunch and dinner daily, holds frequent professional meetings, houses one of Tokyo's finest libraries of English-language books on Asia and is located in one of the city's newest buildings with a sweeping view of Tokyo bay, the Imperial Palace and the Ginza district.

—Al Kaff/Hong Kong

FIRST CLASS

Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.  
Hotel Biltmore, 55 East 43rd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10017

## Washington

(Continued from page 1)

Angele de Gingrass is again writing stories from Washington for the Women's News Service, in New York City.

Marjorie Young, Editor, *Safety Journal*, and travel reporter in Anderson, S.C., was in Washington recently attending a convention and a reception honoring Sen. Muriel Humphrey (D-Minn.).

Some sneak stole the license plates... "ZZZZ" off of Los Angeles Timeser Don Shannon's car in his garage, but left the car behind.

Jim Carey, is now senior correspondent of the Copley papers, covering the White House and Department of State.

Jessie Stearns is serving her sixth term on the National Press Building board of directors and on the executive committee, representing 23 percent of the common stockholders.

She is involved in planning the new block building complex to house all media.

Edward Hunter, longtime China correspondent and author of several books on "brainwashing" as well as a leader in anti-communist causes and editor-publisher of TACTICS, died after a heart attack in his apartment in Arlington, Va., on June 24.

Memorial services were held at St. Albans Church in Washington for Mary Gay Sherrod, wife of Robert Sherrod. She died of cancer on July 10 at her home. Sherrod suggests expressions of sympathy be a contribution to the St. Alban's Church Children's Fund.

Over 1800 men and women in the press corps and friends and top Carter Administration officials and members of the U.S. Congress, heard Presidential Press Secretary Jody Powell defend his boss, the President of the United States, at the annual White House Correspondents dinner.

He was responding to a stinging address by incoming WHC president *Chicago Tribune* Bureau Chief Aldo Beckman.

The 39th President is the first president to accept the invitation to attend, then two days before the dinner, cancelled out because of "fatigue." He spent the weekend at Camp David, Carter's favorite relaxation spot in Maryland.

Among those attending from New York City were AP Stan Svinton, Club treasurer Anita Diamant Berke, NANA's Sheldon Engelmayer, and Barry Zor-thian. And Marvin Stone, Joe Newman, Jessie Stearns, John H. Adams, Fred Archibold, Leo Hochstetter, Robert Hurligh, Barrett McGurn, Eugene Methvin, Virginia Kelly, Helen Farrington, Angele de Gingras, Thomas Ochiltree, Jerry Hannfin, Donald Doane and Charles Foltz.

Robert Thompson, who reported for INS, *Los Angeles Times*, and was publisher of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, returned to Washington as Hearst Newspapers Washington Bureau Chief.

—Jessie Stearns

## Carl Hartman named AP World News editor

Carl Hartman, for the past ten years AP correspondent in Brussels, Belgium, in charge of NATO and Common Market coverage, is returning to New York this month as an editor with AP's World Service. Carl has been an overseas member of OPC for many years and looks forward to his new resident status. He's also househunting (see Classified).

## CLASSIFIED

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT and wife returning to U.S. seek sublet of small apt. beginning August 15. Preferably Manhattan. Price depends on location. Write: Carl Hartman, c/o AP Personnel Dept., 50 Rockefeller Plaza.

## WHO, WHAT, WHERE

By GRACE NAISMITH

HONORS: Bert Chapman, editor of Graphic Arts Monthly, has been advised that his publication has been designated "Magazine of the Year" by the International Association of Printing House Craftsmen and will be honored at their annual meeting in Montreal Aug. 9. Two other awards will be presented to GAM editors for journalistic excellence in the categories of financial management and employee relations... Li Ling-Ai, author of "Life is For a Long Time," has been nominated by Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn., for its new list of "1,000 Significant Twentieth Century Minority Women."... Theodore Berland named winner of the 1978 Beth Fonda Award of the American Medical Writers Association, Greater Chicago Area Chapter, for two articles in Harper's Bazaar, April 1977 — "The Big Killers and How to Avoid Them" and "Physical Disorders and How to Cope with Them."

RADIO INTERVIEWS: On Ralph Gardner's weekly commentary over WRVR-FM — Will Yolen, editor of "Newsbreak," published by Stackpole, July 30, 11:00 a.m. and John Devlin and Grace Naismith scheduled for August 6, 11:00 a.m. Their book in fourth printing is "The World of Roger Tory Peterson."

BIRTHDAY PARTY: James L. Kilgallen was honored on his 90th birthday at the Overseas Press Club. About 100 newspaper people from around the world attended. William Randolph Hearst Jr. read telegrams from Jimmy Carter and Alf Landon, who recalled that Jimmy Kilgallen covered Landon's presidential bid in 1936. Kilgallen still writes columns for Hearst. It was an event that brought out nostalgia, especially for the late Bob Considine, who would have toasted Jimmy the most.

SEEN ON THE SCENE: Jerry Robinson, artist and writer, whose new book, "Skippy and Percy Crosby," will be published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston this fall... Doris and Thurston Macauley with their agent, Ingrid Hellen.

TRAVELING: Paul Kelly (Col. John P. Kelly, U.S. Army, Ret.) and his wife, Ruth, just back from the Far East, where they attended the Lions International 61st annual meeting in Tokyo. Paul was editor-in-chief of *Pacific Stars and Stripes* in Tokyo, 1960-63. The Kellys also visited Korea. The colonel is about to retire again, from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C. He and Ruth, a long-time Army public information officer, plan to have their own pr consultant project soon. Paul was president of the Government Section of the Public Relations Society of America this year... Paul Mason, of Philadelphia's classical music station, WFLN, was in Germany and Austria preparing radio previews of summer music festivals showing this season in Bayreuth, Salzburg and elsewhere... Tomas D.W. Friedmann of the International Literary Agency, 1-18015 Terzorio — IM — Italy, attended the Nice Book Fair, and says he is looking for true, strange, first-person adventure stories... Dorothy Ducas of Chicago's PRSA Health meeting... Gunther Less, whose "Journey to Adventure" television show recently won the Gold Medal from the International Film and Television Festival, the only travel show ever so honored, logged 200,000 miles last year. The 25-year-old program celebrated its anniversary June 22 in New York.

INVITED: All journalists to the Tokyo Foreign Press Center. Henry Gellermann, OPC president, was honored recently by a visit from Japanese Consul Yoshinori Imagawa of the Japanese Consulate in New York and Kinji Kawamura of the Tokyo Foreign Press Center, who want to help foreign correspondents in Japan. The Center is an independent non-profit foundation financed by the Government of Japan, Japan Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association and Keidanren (Japan Federation of Economic Organizations).

RETIRED: Robert S. Eisenhower, head of Textron's Corporate Relations Department, on July 1, at 65. He will continue as vp on special assignments. Eisenhower came to Textron in 1960, and at one time was editor of the *Cleveland News*. His successor will be Ms. Marion K. Pinsdorf, who was with Hill & Knowlton seven years as v.p.

PUBLISHING: Robert Trumbull, the *New York Times*' chief correspondent in Canada, reports that his latest book, "Tin Roofs and Palm Trees: A Report on the New South Seas" is in its second printing and a paperback is planned. The book was published by University of Washington Press... You should see Arky Gonzales' new letterhead. It has his picture on it with press identification and credentials and gives his address as Merrywood House, Honingham, Norfolk, England. He has a piece in McLean's Magazine, Canada, and is off on canal cruises on the Norfolk Broads and the Thames in England and in Burgundy, Holland and Ireland... Naomi Koshkin, Houston, Tex., has articles in *The Star* on home economics consumer consultant subjects. Among them, "How to Organize the Contents of Your Purse" and "How to Achieve High Fashion on a Budget." A new OPC member, Mrs. Koshkin is not only a writer, but also a registered dietician and consultant to hospitals in Beaumont and Houston... Charles E. Rotkin has an important article in *News Photographer*, the official publication of the National Press Photographers Association, Inc., on the OPC Annual Awards prizes and the controversy which ensued. This is a follow-up on a piece in *The Bulletin*, May 1... Don Glassman, of the Writers Press, Washington, D.C., has published a book, "Writers' & Artists' Rights." It's about the new copyright law and more.

EAT, DRINK WITH US AT OPC!

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